

committee and its staff, it is my privilege to give public notice and honorable mention to the outstanding service that Annette Marie Gillis, deputy staff director, has provided to the committee and the Senate for the past 36 years.

Annette, the middle child of Henry Lee and Geneva G. Gillis's seven children, was born and raised in Alexandria, VA. She began her Federal service in 1979, right after high school, with the U.S. House of Representatives, working first for Congressman Herbert E. Harris and then for Congressman Carl D. Purcell.

In September 1980, Annette came to the Senate Select Committee on Ethics as a staff assistant. While working for the committee, she earned an associate of science degree in management from Northern Virginia Community College and then a bachelor of arts in Psychology, magna cum laude, from Marymount University. Because of her intellect, hard work, and professionalism, she advanced to become systems administrator, then chief clerk, and finally, in 2005, deputy staff director. Her contributions to the critical work of the committee have been invaluable. Over the years, serving under 14 different chairmen, including myself and Senator BOXER, Annette has been the constant in the committee's work, expertly managing the operations of the committee and its staff.

I now would like to yield to the Senator from California, whom I have had the honor of serving with on the Select Committee on Ethics, so that she can say a few words about Annette.

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, Annette's contributions go far beyond the committee itself. Through her work on the committee's education and training programs, reporting requirements, and compliance functions, Annette has reached the entire Senate community and, indeed, the Nation. Her contributions, drawn from a reserve of institutional knowledge and experience, have been immeasurable.

The committee commends Annette's unwavering commitment to its work and is honored to have been the beneficiary of her loyal service. Despite the impact of her retirement, we, the committee members and staff, are pleased to see Annette receive the recognition she deserves for her decades of faithful service to the U.S. Senate and the American people.

We ask our colleagues to join us in thanking Annette for her invaluable service to the Select Committee on Ethics, the Senate community, and our Nation.

We thank you, Annette, for your 36 years of dedicated service.

TRIBUTE TO ROB NOEL

Mr. RUBIO. Mr. President, I wanted to take a moment to thank a key member of my office who, after more than 4 years of service to the people of Florida, is leaving us tomorrow to pursue a new career opportunity.

Rob Noel started in our office's communications shop, often rising before the sun to see what was in the news and to make sure my staff and I had the latest info on the issues of the day. Over time, his duties would grow, eventually becoming our speechwriter and deputy communications director.

Rob is a talented writer and has been an invaluable part of our efforts to communicate the causes that are important to us, to shine a spotlight on injustices we see around America and the world, and to rally support for the ideas and solutions that we believe can make a difference for people.

On behalf of myself, your colleagues, and the people of Florida, thank you, Rob, for your service. We wish you the best.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TEXT TO 911 IN NEW JERSEY

• Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I wish to commend the hardworking men and women in New Jersey who have made significant strides to ensure our State keeps pace with modern technology when it comes to public safety. This month, all 21 counties in our great State will have access to expanded 911 services, by being able to text to 911 in case of emergency.

This exciting new development will help save lives across our State and serves as a national model for receiving public safety services. Text to 911 further empowers persons with disabilities—such as hearing or speech impairments—who may have previously faced barriers to accessing emergency services. Today, 911 in New Jersey is open and accessible to more residents than ever before, and I commend the hard work and collaboration in New Jersey that resulted in this accomplishment.

Tragically, there are situations that happen every day where victims of crime or domestic violence are not in a position to physically call 911. With text to 911, individuals who can't speak on the phone can still access vital services. Further, with text to 911 enabled, there may soon come a time when victims can send information they never could have before, such as photos which can be instantly shared with first responders on the ground.

In February of this year, the text to 911 system was rolled out at Rutgers University and showed excellent results. In July, Camden County announced its successful implementation of this new service. And today all counties in our entire State have access to this convenient way of reaching local police. While this service is incredibly important and helps bring our emergency communications into the 21st century, it is important to note that, at this time, a phone call is preferred over a text message. I commend the educational campaign that has accompanied the text to 911 roll out, sharing

the message to "call if you can, text if you can't."

With this month's announcement, New Jersey leads the way as the fifth State to implement text to 911 in the entire Nation. This major achievement would not have been possible without the commitment and collaboration from cellular providers, Rutgers University, and other host sites across the State, as well as State and local governments and emergency response professionals who came together to advance this goal. I am confident that text to 911 will have a tremendous impact on the residents of our State, and I hope our successes and lessons learned in New Jersey can help further inform other States seeking to update their 911 capabilities and better protect their citizens.●

REMEMBERING RONNIE BALDWIN

• Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, today I wish to remember the life of Ronnie Baldwin, who passed away on August 28, 2016.

Ronnie Baldwin led a life dedicated to public service. He joined the Wynne Police Department after graduating from Wynne High School in 1970. He served with that department for more than 15 years, first as a patrolman, then a lieutenant and a criminal investigator. He continued his commitment to protecting the community as the Brinkley chief of police and served as sheriff of Cross County from 1999–2008.

He remained committed to the law enforcement community, serving as executive director of the Arkansas Sheriff's Association, which he told friends was his dream job.

His commitment to public service extended beyond the borders of Arkansas. He was a board member of the National Sheriffs' Association and also served as a board member of the Arkansas Professional Bail Bond Licensing Board for more than 11 years.

Ronnie once said in a newspaper interview that he believed "actions define character." Those who had the privilege of working with him knew that he lived by those words.

A true family man and dear friend, Ronnie leaves behind many loved ones, including his wife, Martha, children, grandchildren, and many friends. I want to offer my prayers and sincere condolences to his loved ones on their loss. Ronnie was a true hero who led a life committed to protecting public safety. I thank him for his lifelong commitment to Arkansas and law enforcement throughout the Nation.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE LEGAL AID SOCIETY—EMPLOYMENT LAW CENTER

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, as the Legal Aid Society—Employment Law Center, LAS-ELC, celebrates its 100th anniversary, I want to congratulate the staff, volunteers, and supporters of this extraordinary organization for all